

# MarketView **Baltimore Industrial**

**FIRST QUARTER 2008** 

"Tenant activity in the first quarter remained steady despite the uncertain financial conditions within the market and the overall economy. Tenants remain somewhat hesitant to fully commit to spaces, but all signs point to a more active second half of 2008 in terms of net absorption."

- Adam Weidner, Senior Associate

| <b>QUICK STATS</b>   |              |                    |      |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|------|
|                      |              | Change             |      |
|                      | Current      | <i>lası</i><br>Yr. | Qtr. |
| Direct Vacancy       | 8.54%        | 1                  | 1    |
| Overall Lease Rate   | \$5.95 NNN   | •                  | 1    |
| Net Absorption (YTD) | 642,980 SF   | •                  | 1    |
| Construction         | 1,696,490 SI | -                  | -    |

\*The arrows are trend indicators over the specified time period and do not represent a positive or negative value. (e.g., absorption could be negative, but still represent a positive trend over a specified period.)

### **HOT TOPICS**

- Maryland's economy continues to thrive in 2008 from exporting goods like defense systems and manufactured chemicals. There was an 18% increase in exports in 2007, nearly triple the quantity in 2006.
- Maryland's job base has grown by 30,700 jobs since February 2007.
- Potential big box tenants are in a holding pattern, waiting to discern the impact of the lending markets on the economy.

In the face of an economic downturn, leasing of industrial space was healthy in Baltimore this quarter, displaying promise for the short-term local outlook. Industrial leasing activity was most significant in main arterial submarkets along the roadway of Interstate 95. The local industrial sector has shown resilience thus far in the national economic slump because of the proximity to intermodal facilities, the government federal and limited opportunities for build-to-suit product.

Baltimore's industrial market has become a thriving warehousing and distribution core due to an efficient intermodal transportation system. The region is accessed through The Port of Baltimore, BWI Airport, Interstates 95 and 70, and a distinctive mix of line haul and short line railroads via CSX, Norfolk Southern Railway and local rail like the Canton Railroad Company. Located 180 miles inland, the Port of Baltimore is appealing for companies allowing shorter trucking distances when the increasing price of fuel is driving up shipping costs. These various forms of logistical access make Baltimore a targeted area for bulk distribution and warehousing. An indicator of this is that more than 450,000 sauare feet of net absorption was recorded in the

market for bulk warehouse buildings with a 20 foot clear ceiling height or greater.

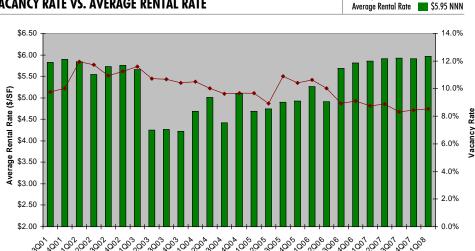
Despite recording over 600,000 square feet of absorption in the first quarter, the industrial vacancy rate increased eight basis points resulting from speculative construction that delivered this quarter. Over one million square feet of industrial product delivered with only 14% pre-leased. This is an indication that developers see excellent value and low risk in constructing industrial assets in the Baltimore market. Over 980,000 square feet of these deliveries were buildings with ceiling heights ranging from 26 feet to 35 feet, excellent loading and column spacing and in superior locations, signifying the quality that corporate tenants demand in functional space.

Larger tenants looking at Baltimore as a potential warehousing or distribution location are enticed by state-based tax incentives. New industrial deliveries and projects in the pipeline in the city and north of the Harbor Tunnel on Interstate 95 are either in Enterprise Zones, One Maryland Zones, or areas eligible for job creation tax credits. The state, city and Baltimore County provide an excellent platform for enticements accentuated by a region fortified by high quality buildings with excellent distribution and logistical access.

Vacancy Rate

8.54%



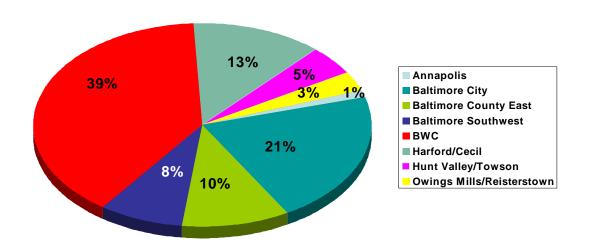


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|                        |             | Direct<br>Vacancy | Net Absorption | Total Under  | Asking Rates |         |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| Submarket              | Inventory   | Rate              | YTD            | Construction | Warehouse    | Flex    |
| Annapolis              | 1,871,509   | 2.01%             | 14,481         | -            | \$6.00       | \$15.53 |
| Baltimore City         | 32,428,418  | 6.29%             | (121,425)      | 508,100      | \$4.58       | \$6.35  |
| Baltimore County East  | 15,711,817  | 12.38%            | 177,950        | 68,930       | \$4.98       | \$11.93 |
| Baltimore Southwest    | 12,523,915  | 11.09%            | 299,736        | 228,154      | \$4.32       | \$9.95  |
| Balt/Wash Corridor     | 60,537,098  | 7.59%             | 215,862        | 241,306      | \$5.48       | \$11.98 |
| Harford/Cecil County   | 19,316,438  | 12.09%            | 27,600         | 650,000      | \$4.33       | \$8.45  |
| Hunt Valley/Towson     | 7,330,075   | 9.13%             | 2,646          | -            | \$6.40       | \$9.75  |
| Owings Mills/Reist. Rd | 4,769,382   | 3.79%             | 26,130         | <u>-</u>     | \$7.55       | \$10.85 |
| Totals                 | 154,488,652 | 8.54%             | 642,980        | 1,696,490    | \$5.46       | \$10.60 |

#### **INVENTORY DISTRIBUTION BY SUBMARKET**



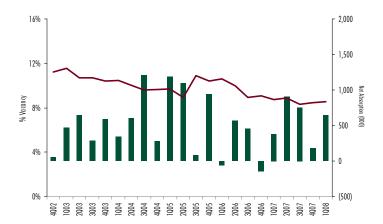


#### **VACANCY/NET ABSORPTION**

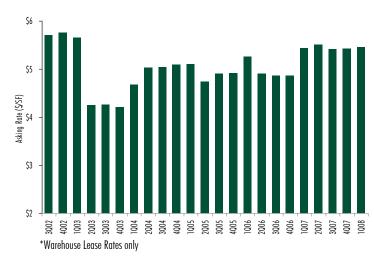
Vacancy 8 54% Absorption 642,980 SF

#### **AVERAGE ASKING LEASE RATES\***

Average Asking Lease Rate \$5.46 NNN



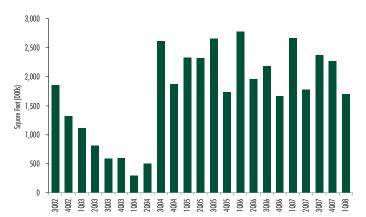
At the end of the first guarter of 2008, the Baltimore industrial market absorbed 642,980 square feet of space. The warehouse sector experienced a healthy quarter absorbing 453,320 square feet. The Baltimore Southwest submarket warehouse sector absorbed 216,204 square feet in the first quarter, while Baltimore County East followed with 163,317 square feet of positive absorption. Despite significant overall net absorption for the quarter, vacancy rates rose due to the delivery of over one million speculative square feet to the market. The deliveries were only 14% pre-leased.



The average asking rate for warehouse space in the first quarter of 2008 was \$5.46, virtually unchanged from \$5.43 per square foot in the fourth quarter. Despite the effects of a softening economy, rents for Baltimore industrial space continued to rise because of the increase in Class A inventory. Many antiquated buildings have been renovated in recent years to elevate the quality that local companies demand. Scarcity of land and the cost of ground-up development can make redevelopment a less capital intensive opportunity for developers and owners interested in owning Class A product.

#### CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY





Seven buildings totaling 1.03 million square feet delivered 14% preleased in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area during the first quarter. There are currently 10 industrial buildings under construction in the region, totaling approximately 1.7 million square feet. Each building in the Baltimore area is being constructed on a speculative basis, so the health of the region's industrial real estate market is contingent upon the ability to absorb the new product delivered to the market.

#### **MARKET OUTLOOK**

The Baltimore industrial sector is primarily supported by its ability to supply big box warehouses to tenants along the Interstate 95 Corridor and near the Port of Baltimore. In addition to an already healthy distribution and hightech market, both flex and warehouse product will see the effects of the Defense Department's Base Realignment and Closure. The flex/high-tech space will likely be absorbed by contractors supporting the Department of Defense. Warehouse product is expected to be absorbed by the demand for construction materials, retail product and other supplies needed for the influx of new employees and families moving into the region.



## TOP 1Q 2008 BALTIMORE LEASE TRANSACTIONS

| Size (Sq. Ft.) | Tenant                      | Address             | Submarket             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 183,000        | Frank Parsons Paper Company | 1300 Mercedes Drive | BWC                   |
| 164,216        | Danaher Tool                | 7200 Standard Drive | BWC                   |
| 78,070         | Crate & Barrel              | 7190 Parkway Drive  | BWC                   |
| 75,000         | Baltimore Steel & Storage   | 4501 Curtis Avenue  | Baltimore County East |

#### **BALTIMORE SUBMARKET MAP**



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#### AVAILABLE SQUARE FEET

Includes advertised listings in existing buildings regardless of possession date. It includes building area that is either physically vacant or occupied.

#### AVAILABILITY RATE

Available square feet divided by the net rentable area.

#### AVERAGE ASKING LEASE RATE

Rate determined by multiplying the asking lease rate for each building by its available space, summing the products, then dividing by the sum of the available space with net leases for all buildings in the summary.

#### **FULL SERVICE**

Rent is inclusive of operating expenses and rates.

#### MARKET COVERAGE

Includes all existing competitive industrial buildings greater than 10,000 square feet for flex and 20,000 square feet for warehouse.

#### NET ABSORPTION

The change in occupied square feet from one period to the next.

#### NET LEASES

Includes all lease types whereby the tenant pays an agreed rent plus most, or all, of the operating expenses and taxes for the property, including utilities, insurance and/or maintenance expenses.

#### NET RENTABLE AREA

The gross building square footage minus the elevator core, flues, pipe shafts, vertical ducts, balconies, and stairwell areas.

#### OCCUPIED SQUARE FEET

Building area not considered vacant.

#### **UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

Buildings which have begun construction as evidenced by site excavation or foundation work.

#### **VACANT SQUARE FEET**

Immediately available or physically vacant space in existing buildings. The vacancy rate excludes sublease space.

#### VACANCY RATE

Vacant building feet divided by the net rentable area.

For more information regarding the MarketView, please contact:

Rob Hartley Research Manager rob.hartley@cbre.com

Marianne Swearingen Research Manager marianne.swearingen@cbre.com

750 9th Street, NW, Suite 900 Washington, DC 20001 T. 202.783.8200 F. 202.783.1723